

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

2. Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. William J. Kramer (Reg. No. 46229) on 06 October 2008.

3. The claims had been amended as follows:

1 (Currently amended) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for performing steps for processing Input/Output ("I/O") requests, comprising:

receiving an I/O request from an application thread;

performing an I/O operation in response to the I/O request; and

upon completion of the I/O operation, determining whether to boost a priority of the application thread according to criteria based on, future I/O operations to be performed for the application thread or whether a period of time since a last time the priority of the application thread was boosted has reached a threshold length, wherein the criteria for determining whether to boost the priority of the application thread includes an analysis of the number of I/O operations to be performed in the future for the application thread and if the number is below a

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threshold, refraining from increasing the priority of the application thread until the I/O operations are complete;

wherein the application thread posts a data buffer in connection with the I/O request, and the step of performing the I/O operation includes copying data into the I/O buffer.

2 (Original) A computer-readable medium as in claim 1, having further computer-executable instructions for performing steps of:

if the step of determining determines not to boost the priority of the application thread, performing a further I/O operation for the application thread, and determining again whether to boost the priority of the application thread.

3 (Canceled)

4 (Original) A computer-readable medium as in claim 1, having further computer-executable instructions for performing the step of boosting the priority of the application thread when the step of determining determines that the priority of the application is to be boosted.

5 (Original) A computer-readable medium as in claim 4, wherein the step of boosting boosts the priority of the application thread by a pre-selected level.

6 (Original) A computer-readable medium as in claim 5, wherein the pre-selected level is fixed.

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7 (Canceled)

8 (Original) A computer-readable medium as in claim 1, wherein the criteria for determining whether to boost the priority of the application thread include whether a number of I/O operations performed in a current thread context for the application thread has reached a threshold number.

9 (Canceled)

10 (Currently amended) A method of processing Input/Output ("I/O") requests, comprising:

- receiving an I/O request from an application thread;
- performing an I/O operation in response to the I/O request;
- upon completion of the I/O operation, determining whether to boost a priority of the application thread according to criteria based on future I/O operations to be performed for the application thread or whether a period of time since a last time the priority of the application thread was boosted has reached a threshold length wherein the criteria for determining whether to boost the priority of the application thread include determining the number of I/O operations to be performed in the future and if the number is below a threshold, refraining from increasing the priority of the application thread until the I/O operations are complete; and

boosting the priority of the application thread by a pre-selected fixed level when the step of determining determines that the priority of the application is to be boosted;

wherein the application thread posts a data buffer in connection with the I/O request, and the step of performing the I/O operation includes copying data into the I/O buffer.

11 (Original) A method as in claim 10, having further steps of:

if the step of determining determines not to boost the priority of the application thread, performing a further I/O operation for the application thread, and determining again whether to boost the priority of the application thread.

12-15 (Canceled)

16 (Previously presented) A method as in claim 10, wherein the criteria for determining whether to boost the priority of the application thread include includes an analysis of the number of I/O operations to be performed in the future for the application thread.

17 (Original) A method as in claim 10, wherein the criteria for determining whether to boost the priority of the application thread include whether a number of I/O operations performed in a current thread context has reached a threshold number.

18. (Canceled)

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19. (Currently amended) A computer system comprising a processor being configured according to computer executable instructions, a memory for storing computer executable instructions and an input/output circuit, the computer executable code comprising instructions for creating:

an application thread making an I/O request;

a system thread for responding to the I/O request, the system thread being programmed to receive the I/O request from the application thread, perform an I/O operation in response to the I/O request, and upon completion of the I/O operation, determine whether to boost a priority of the application thread according to criteria based on, future I/O operations to be performed for the application thread or whether a period of time since a last time the priority of the application thread was boosted has reached a threshold length;

wherein the system thread is programmed to boost the priority of the application thread by a pre-selected fixed level when the system thread determines that the priority of the application is to be boosted;

wherein the criteria for determining whether to boost the priority of the application thread include determining the number of I/O operations to be performed in the future and if the number is below a threshold, refraining from increasing the priority of the application thread until the I/O operations are complete; and

wherein the application thread posts a data buffer in connection with the I/O request, and the I/O operation performed by the system thread includes copying data into the I/O buffer.

20 (Original) A computer system as in claim 19, wherein the system thread is further programmed to perform steps of:

if the system thread determines not to boost the priority of the application thread, performing a further I/O operation for the application thread, and determining again whether to boost the priority of the application thread.

21-23 (canceled)

24. (Previously presented) A computer system as in claim 19, wherein the criteria for determining whether to boost the priority of the application thread include includes an analysis of the number of I/O operations to be performed in the future for the application thread.

25 (Original) A computer system as in claim 19, wherein the criteria for determining whether to boost the priority of the application thread include whether a number of I/O operations performed in a current thread context for the application thread has reached a threshold number.

26 (canceled)

Allowable Subject Matter

4. Claims 1-2, 4-6, 8, 10-11, 16-17, 19-20 and 24-25.

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5. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ex. Abdou Seye whose telephone number is (571) 270-1062. The examiner can normally be reached Monday through Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, contact the examiner's supervisor, An Meng at (571) 272-3756. The fax phone number for formal or official faxes to Technology Center 3600 is (571) 273-8300. Draft or informal faxes, which will not be entered in the application, may be submitted directly to the examiner at (571) 273-6722.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group Receptionist whose telephone number is (571) 272-3600.

/Meng-Ai An/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2195

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Examiner, Art Unit 2194